

Senate Bill 108

By: Senators Martin of the 9th, Albers of the 56th, Miller of the 49th, Stone of the 23rd and Kirkpatrick of the 32nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum, so as to require courses in
3 computer science in middle school and high school; to provide for legislative findings; to
4 provide for definitions; to provide for a phase-in of such requirement; to provide for courses
5 through the Georgia Virtual School; to provide for grants for professional development
6 programs for teachers providing instruction in computer science courses and content; to
7 provide for annual reporting; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
8 for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
12 relating to competencies and core curriculum, is amended by adding a new Code section to
13 read as follows:

14 "20-2-149.3.

15 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

16 (1) Education in computer science is a critical need for the students of Georgia for the
17 twenty-first century;

18 (2) Less than 0.5 percent of high school graduates take a computer science course;

19 (3) There are thousands of unfulfilled computer science jobs in the state; and

20 (4) The logical thinking skills taught by computer science are now very valuable in many
21 noncomputer science jobs, as technology has become embedded in most professions.

22 (b) As used in this Code section, the term:

23 (1) 'Computer science' means the study of computers, algorithmic processes, and logical
24 thinking, including computer principles, their hardware and software designs, their
25 implementation, and their impact on society.

26 (2) 'Computer science courses and content' means high school courses that teach
27 computer science as stand-alone implementations and middle school courses that provide
28 instruction in computer science in standalone implementations or embedded in other
29 subjects and focus on how to create and understand technology, rather than simply using
30 technology.

31 (3) 'High-quality professional learning' means professional development activities that:

- 32 (A) Clarify the conceptual foundations of computer science;
- 33 (B) Teach research based practices, including hands-on and inquiry based learning; and
- 34 (C) Are intended for teachers with or without prior exposure to computer science.

35 (4) 'High-quality professional learning providers' means institutions of higher education
36 in this state, nonprofit organizations, or private entities that have successfully designed,
37 implemented, and scaled high-quality professional learning for teachers and are approved
38 or recommended by the State Board of Education in coordination with the Department
39 of Education.

40 (5) 'Offer' means providing a course onsite at the physical location of the school or
41 providing an onsite proctored course through virtual means.

42 (c)(1) Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year:

- 43 (A) Each local school system shall provide that at least one high school in its school
44 system offers a course in computer science;
- 45 (B) Each local school system shall provide that all middle schools in its school system
46 offer instruction in exploratory computer science;
- 47 (C) Each state charter school that serves high school students shall offer a course in
48 computer science; and
- 49 (D) Each state charter school that serves middle school students shall offer instruction
50 in exploratory computer science.

51 (2) Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, each local school system shall provide that
52 at least 50 percent of the high schools in its school system offer a course in computer
53 science.

54 (3) Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each local school system shall provide that
55 all high schools in its school system offer a course in computer science.

56 (d) The Department of Education shall ensure that the Georgia Virtual School operated
57 pursuant to Code Section 20-2-319.1 has sufficient capacity to enable schools to utilize
58 computer science courses to meet the needs of such schools as a result of this Code section.

59 (e)(1) Subject to appropriations, grants shall be provided to eligible entities to deliver
60 professional development programs for teachers providing instruction in computer
61 science courses and content.

(2) Eligible entities shall include local school systems, consortia of local school systems, local charter schools, state charter schools, and high-quality professional learning providers working in partnership with local school systems.

(3) Criteria for grant awards to eligible entities pursuant to this subsection shall include:

(A) The number of teachers in a local school system that require training and the number of teachers in a local school system that have already received training; and

(B) The willingness of local school systems to make available their teachers who have received training in computer science courses and content to provide computer science

instruction in another local school system or systems.

(4) The Department of Education shall submit a report on December 1 of each year to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairperson of the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and the chairperson of the House Committee on Education. Such report shall include the number of teachers trained, the number of schools offering training, the number of students served and the demographics of such students, and a list of the eligible entities that provided the training."

SECTION 2.

79 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.